UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2189	

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *21 September 2001* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are pending in the application.

  4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *04 December 2000* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

  If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

  a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

    1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
      application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .	6)☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt Acknowledgement

1.   Receipt is acknowledged of the Preliminary Amendment filed on 21st of September, 2001. Claims

1-14 have been amended; no claims have been canceled; and no claims have been newly added.

Currently, claims 1-14 are pending in this application.

Specification

2.   The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Substitute "AV/V" on page 15, line 4, by --AV/C--.

Substitute "the first second apparatus" on page 34, line 8, by --the second apparatus--.

Appropriate correction is required.

3.   The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence

of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which

applicant may become aware in the specification.

Drawings

4.   The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not

include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: the reference sign 2 for an analog

signal line on page 9, line 18 is not show on the drawings. A proposed drawing correction or corrected

drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The

objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

5.   The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include

the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: In Figure 1, the reference signs 31, 41

and 51 are not mentioned in the text disclosure. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or

amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the

Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in

abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the
> subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7.   Claim 3 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing

to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 3 recites the limitation "the resetting" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for

this limitation in the claim. Therefore, the term "the resetting" could be considered as --a resetting-- since

it is not clearly defined in the claims.

Claim 14 recites the limitation "the direction" in lines 8 and 9. There is insufficient antecedent

basis for this limitation in the claim. Therefore, the term "the direction" could be considered as --a

direction-- since it is not clearly defined in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis

for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this
> or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

9.   Claims 6, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Iijima et al. [US

5,942,983 A; hereinafter Iijima'983].

Referring to claim 6, Iijima'983 discloses an apparatus controlling method (See Abstract) for

performing control between apparatuses (i.e., performing managing control between apparatuses VTR-1

11, VTR-2 12 and CAM-1 13 in Fig. 1) connected to a predetermined bus line (i.e., IEEE 1394 serial bus

14 and 15 in Fig. 1), wherein settings of an output status (i.e., read open status) in a first apparatus (i.e.,

CAM-1 of Fig. 1) are preset (i.e., set to "open" state) by a transmission of a predetermined command (i.e., transmitting a "read open" command; See col. 5, lines 28-29) from a second apparatus (i.e., VTR-1 of Fig. 1) so that data outputted from said first apparatus is received by said second apparatus (See col. 5, lines 40-46), and wherein issuance of said command (i.e., issuance of "(3) Read Open" command in Fig. 6) from said second apparatus (i.e., VTR-1) is made by a direction (i.e., MIC reading and/or writing in Fig. 6) from said first apparatus (i.e., CAM-1).

Referring to claim 7, Iijima'983 teaches that an identification data (i.e., ID) indicating that said command has issued (See col. 5, lines 33-36; i.e., wherein that an ID of the first VTR corresponding to the counter appliance which has sent the read open command anticipates an identification data indicating that said command has issued) under said direction of said first apparatus (i.e., under the order activated by the MIC read rejection of said CAM-1) is attached to a predetermined section of said command upon said issuance of said command from said second apparatus under said direction of said first apparatus (i.e., read open command with ID; See col. 5, lines 35-36).

Referring to claim 9, Iijima'983 discloses a transmission device (i.e., electronic appliance 1 of Fig. 5) for data transmission with other apparatuses (See col. 4, lines 44-50) connected via a predetermined bus line (i.e., IEEE 1394 serial bus 7 of Fig. 5), comprising: an inputting portion (i.e., communication I/F 6 of Fig. 5) for input of data transmitted via said bus line (See col. 4, lines 24-27), a data processing portion (i.e., D-I/F microcomputer 5 of Fig. 5) for finding (i.e., detecting) from said data inputted by said inputting portion a command (i.e., read or read/write open command) regarding a presetting of settings for input selection (i.e., read/write open) or output selection (i.e., read open) in data transmission (i.e., MIC data transmission) with a specific one of said apparatuses (i.e., VTR-1 of Fig. 1) connected to said bus line (i.e., IEEE 1394 serial bus), and for performing said presetting specified in said command (See col. 4, lines 21-23 and lines 44-54), and a storing portion (i.e., register) for storage of identification data (i.e., ID) unique to said specific one of said apparatuses (i.e., VTR-1) contained in said

command detected by said data processing portion (See col. 5, lines 33-36;i.e., wherein that an ID of the

first VTR corresponding to the counter appliance which has sent the read open command anticipates that

a storing portion for storage of identification data unique to said specific one of said apparatuses

contained in said command detected by said data processing portion).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

11.   This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under

35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly

owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of

each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner

to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under

35 U.S.C. 103(a).

12.   Claims 1-4, 8 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima'983

[US 5,942,983 A] in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art [hereinafter AAPA].

Referring to claim 1, Iijima'983 discloses an apparatus controlling method (See Abstract) for

performing control between apparatuses (i.e., performing managing control between apparatuses VTR-1

11, VTR-2 12 and CAM-1 13 in Fig. 1) connected to a predetermined bus line (i.e., IEEE 1394 serial bus

14 and 15 in Fig. 1), wherein in data transmission between a first apparatus (i.e., CAM-1 of Fig. 1) and a

second apparatus (i.e., VTR-1 of Fig. 1), presetting of settings for inputting (i.e., read/write open) or

outputting (i.e., read open) of data (i.e., MIC data) in said first apparatus (i.e., CAM-1 of Fig. 1) is

directed by a transmission of a command (e.g., read open command; See col. 5, lines 28-29) via said bus line (i.e., IEEE 1394 serial bus), wherein an identification data (i.e., ID) unique to said second apparatus (i.e., VTR-1) is transmitted upon said transmission of said command (See col. 5, lines 30-35; i.e., wherein in fact that an ID of the first VTR corresponding to the counter appliance which has sent the read open command implies that an identification data unique to said second apparatus is transmitted upon said transmission of said command), and wherein said first apparatus (i.e., CAM-1 of Fig. 1) stores said transmitted unique identification data (See col. 5, lines 33-35) when performing said presetting in accordance with said command (i.e., accepting "read open" command; See col. 5, lines 30-35). Iijima'983 does not expressly teach said command (e.g., read open command) is in a predetermined format.

AAPA discloses an AV apparatus capable of mutually transmitting information via a network provided by an IEEE1394 serial communication bus (See page 1, lines 10-12), wherein a command is in a predetermined format (i.e., AV/C command; See page 1, lines 12-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have applied said predetermined format (i.e., AV/C protocol format), as disclosed by AAPA, to said command of said apparatus, as disclosed by Iijima'983, so as to control said apparatuses (i.e., AV apparatuses) connected said predetermined bus line (i.e., IEEE 1394 serial bus) with the advantages in compliance with the standard, AV/C digital Interface Command Set General Specification (See AAPA, page 1, lines 15-18).

    Referring to claim 2, Iijima'983 discloses said first apparatus (i.e., CAM-1 of Fig. 1) disables said preset (See col. 7, lines 25-28; i.e., wherein in fact that the read open state of the first VTR is forcibly closed clearly anticipates said first apparatus disables said preset) once a resetting (i.e., bus resetting operation) is performed in said bus line (See col. 7, lines 24-49).

Iijima'983, as modified by AAPA, does not explicitly show said first apparatus identifies said second

apparatus connected to said bus line from said stored identification data.

Nevertheless, as implicitly suggested in Iijima'983 (i.e., in such a case that a command is received from

the second VTR and this command may give influences to the data stored in the MIC, the first CAM

returns a reject response to the second VTR; See col. 7, lines 43-48), said first apparatus should be able to

identify said second apparatus connected to said bus line from said stored identification data because said

first apparatus (i.e., the first CAM) returns a reject response to the other (i.e., the second VTR) than said

second apparatus (i.e., the first VTR).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to have included said method step of identification so as to response said rejection to the other

than said second apparatus (i.e., VTR-1 of Fig. 1).

And then, Iijima'983 teaches said first apparatus does not perform said presetting (See col. 7, lines 43-49)

in response to a directing command (e.g., (9)Read Open command in Fig. 6) transmitted from any other

of said apparatuses (i.e., VTR-2 in Fig. 6) than said identified second apparatus (i.e., VTR-1 in Fig. 6).

Referring to claim 3, Iijima'983 discloses said first apparatus (i.e., CAM-1 of Fig. 1) disables said

preset (i.e., forcible close) upon a resetting (i.e., bus resetting) performed in said bus line (i.e., IEEE 1394

serial bus; See col. 7, lines 24-28), and maintains said stored identification data for at least a

predetermined period (i.e., a predetermined time-out time period) following said resetting (See col. 7,

lines 35-42; i.e., wherein in fact that in such a case that after the first VTR has finally accessed to the

MIC, the first CAM is not once accessed even when a predetermined time-out time period has elapsed,

when an open command is received from the second VTR, this first CAM returns an accept response to

the second VTR, and also forcibly closes the read open state of the first VTR implies that said first

apparatus maintains said stored identification data for at least a predetermined period following said

resetting).

Iijima'983, as modified by AAPA, does not explicitly show said first apparatus said first apparatus identifies said second apparatus connected to said bus line (i.e., IEEE 1394 serial bus) from said stored identification data during said predetermined period.

Nevertheless, as implicitly suggested in Iijima'983 (i.e., in such a case that a command is received from the second VTR and this command may give influences to the data stored in the MIC, the first CAM returns a reject response to the second VTR; See col. 7, lines 43-48),

said first apparatus said first apparatus identifies said second apparatus connected to said bus line (i.e., IEEE 1394 serial bus) from said stored identification data during said predetermined period because said first apparatus (i.e., the first CAM) returns a reject response to the other (i.e., the second VTR) than said second apparatus (i.e., the first VTR).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said method step of identification so as to response said rejection to the other than said second apparatus (e.g., VTR-1 of Fig. 1).

Iijima'983 teaches performs said presetting of said settings for inputting or outputting of said data only in response to said command from said identified second apparatus (See col. 7, lines 43-47), and after said predetermined period has been passed (i.e., a predetermined time-out time period has been elapsed), said first apparatus removes said disablement of accepting said preset requesting command from said other apparatuses (See 7, lines 40-42).

Referring to claim 4, Iijima'983 teaches said first apparatus (i.e., CAM-1 of Fig. 1) cancels (i.e., close) said preset in response to a direction for canceling said preset (i.e., "(7)Close" command in Fig. 6) issued by said apparatus which is the issuer of said preset command for the above particular preset, if this particular preset is enabled in said first apparatus (See col. 5, lines 48-52).

Referring to claim 8, Iijima'983 discloses a transmission device (i.e., electronic appliance 1 of Fig. 5) for data transmission (See col. 4, lines 44-50) with other apparatuses (i.e., VTR-1 11, VTR-2 12

and CAM-1 13 in Fig. 1) connected via a predetermined bus line (i.e., IEEE 1394 serial bus 7 of Fig. 5),

comprising: a storing portion (i.e., register) for storage of identification data (i.e., ID) unique to said

device (i.e., electronic appliance, such as VTR-1 of Fig. 1; See col. 5, lines 33-35), a command generating

portion (i.e., D-I/F microcomputer 5 of Fig. 5; See col. 4, lines 21-23) for generation (i.e., production) of

a command (i.e., produce a command for read/write open or read open) for performing a presetting of

settings for input selection (i.e., read/write open) or output selection (i.e., read open) in a specific one of

said apparatuses (i.e., VTR-1 of Fig. 1) connected to said bus line (i.e., IEEE 1394 serial bus), and

attaching identification data (i.e., ID) stored in said storing portion (i.e., register) to a predetermined

section of said command (i.e., read open command with ID; See col. 5, lines 35-36), and a sending

portion (i.e., communication I/F 6 of Fig. 5) for sending said command generated by said command

generating portion into said bus line (See col. 4, lines 24-27).

Iijima'983 does not expressly teach said command (e.g., read open command) is in a predetermined

format.

AAPA discloses an AV apparatus capable of mutually transmitting information via a network provided

by an IEEE1394 serial communication bus (See page 1, lines 10-12), wherein a command is in a

predetermined format (i.e., AV/C command; See page 1, lines 12-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to have applied said predetermined format (i.e., AV/C protocol format), as disclosed by AAPA, to

said command of said apparatus, as disclosed by Iijima'983, so as to control said apparatuses (i.e., AV

apparatuses) connected said predetermined bus line (i.e., IEEE 1394 serial bus) with the advantages in

compliance with the standard, AV/C digital Interface Command Set General Specification (See AAPA,

page 1, lines 15-18).

Referring to claim 14, Iijima'983 discloses a transmission device (i.e., electronic appliance 1 of

Fig. 5) for data transmission (See col. 4, lines 44-50) with other apparatuses (i.e., VTR-1 11, VTR-2 12

and CAM-1 13 in Fig. 1) connected via a predetermined bus line (i.e., IEEE 1394 serial bus 7 of Fig. 5),

comprising: a command generating portion (i.e., D-I/F microcomputer 5 of Fig. 5; See col. 4, lines 21-23)

for generation (i.e., production) of a command (i.e., produce a command for read/write open or read open)

for performing a presetting of settings for input selection (i.e., read/write open) or output selection (i.e.,

read open) in a specific one of the other apparatuses (i.e., VTR-1 of Fig. 1) connected to said bus line

(i.e., IEEE 1394 serial bus), and for attaching identification data (i.e., ID) indicating that said command is

issued (See col. 5, lines 33-36; i.e., wherein that an ID of the first VTR corresponding to the counter

appliance which has sent the read open command anticipates an identification data indicating that said

command is issued) under a direction (i.e., MIC reading and/or writing in Fig. 6) of said specific one of

the other apparatuses (i.e., VTR-1) to a predetermined section of said command (i.e., read open command

with ID; See col. 5, lines 35-36), and a sending portion (i.e., communication I/F 6 of Fig. 5) for sending

said command generated by said command generating portion into said bus line (See col. 4, lines 24-27).

Iijima'983 does not expressly teach said command (e.g., read open command) is in a predetermined

format.

AAPA discloses an AV apparatus capable of mutually transmitting information via a network provided

by an IEEE1394 serial communication bus (See page 1, lines 10-12), wherein a command is in a

predetermined format (i.e., AV/C command; See page 1, lines 12-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to have applied said predetermined format (i.e., AV/C protocol format), as disclosed by AAPA, to

said command of said apparatus, as disclosed by Iijima'983, so as to control said apparatuses (i.e., AV

apparatuses) connected said predetermined bus line (i.e., IEEE 1394 serial bus) with the advantages in

compliance with the standard, AV/C digital Interface Command Set General Specification (See AAPA,

page 1, lines 15-18).

13.   Claims 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima'983 [US 5,942,983

A] in view of AAPA as applied to claims 1-4, 8 and 14 above, and further in view of Iijima et al. [US

5,689,244 A; hereinafter Iijima'244].

Referring to claim 5, Iijima'983, as modified by AAPA, discloses all the limitations of the claim

5 except that does not teach said first apparatus transmits data for identification of said second apparatus

to an issuer of another of said command requesting said presetting of settings in said first apparatus for

data transmission with one of said apparatuses other than said second apparatus, if said preset for said

second apparatus is enabled in said first apparatus.

Iijima'244 discloses a communication system (See Abstract), wherein a confirmation procedure (i.e.,

writing confirmation) comprising a first apparatus (i.e., VTR-A in Fig. 11) transmits data for

identification (i.e., information γ in Fig. 11) of a second apparatus (i.e., VTR-C in Fig. 11) to an issuer of

a command (i.e., lock request (α, β) from VTR-B in Fig. 11) requesting a presetting of settings (i.e.,

locking) in said first apparatus (i.e., VTR-A) for data transmission with one of apparatuses other than said

second apparatus (i.e., VTR-B in Fig. 11), if said preset for said second apparatus is enabled in said first

apparatus (i.e., VTR-A has been locked by said presetting (locking) from VTR-C; See col. 11, lines 39-

47).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to have applied said confirmation procedure, as disclosed by Iijima'244, to said apparatus, as

disclosed by Iijima'983, as modified by AAPA, for the advantage of allowing said issuer of another of

said command requesting said presetting of settings in said first apparatus for data transmission (i.e.,

writing party) to confirm the successful presetting (i.e., writing; See Iijima'244, col. 11, lines 32-33).

14.   Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima'983 [US

5,942,983 A].

Referring to claim 10, Iijima'983 discloses said data processing portion (i.e., D-I/F

microcomputer 5 of Fig. 5) disables said preset (See col. 7, lines 25-28; i.e., wherein in fact that the read

open state of the first VTR is forcibly closed clearly anticipates said first apparatus disables said preset)

once a resetting (i.e., bus resetting operation) is performed in said bus line (See col. 7, lines 24-49).

Iijima'983 does not explicitly show said data processing portion identifies said specific one of said

apparatuses from said identification data stored in said storing portion.

Nevertheless, as implicitly suggested in Iijima'983 (i.e., in such a case that a command is received from

the second VTR and this command may give influences to the data stored in the MIC, the first CAM

returns a reject response to the second VTR; See col. 7, lines 43-48), said data processing portion should

be able to identify said second apparatus connected to said bus line from said stored identification data

because said data processing portion of said transmission device (i.e., the first CAM) returns a reject

response to the other than said specific one of said apparatuses (i.e., the first VTR).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to have included said method step of identification so as to response said rejection to the other

than said specific one of said apparatuses (e.g., VTR-1 of Fig. 1).

Iijima'983 teaches said data processing portion does not perform any presetting (See col. 7, lines 43-49)

requested by said command (e.g., (9)Read Open command in Fig. 6) transmitted from any other of said

apparatuses (e.g., VTR-2 in Fig. 6) than said specific one of said apparatuses (e.g., VTR-1).

Referring to claim 11, Iijima'983 discloses said data processing portion (i.e., D-I/F

microcomputer 5 of Fig. 5) disables said preset (See col. 7, lines 25-28; i.e., wherein in fact that the read

open state of the first VTR is forcibly closed clearly anticipates said first apparatus disables said preset)

once a resetting (i.e., bus resetting operation) is performed in said bus line (See col. 7, lines 24-49).

Iijima'983 does not explicitly show said data processing portion identifies said specific one of said

apparatuses from said identification data stored in said storing portion.

Nevertheless, as implicitly suggested in Iijima'983 (i.e., in such a case that a command is received from the second VTR and this command may give influences to the data stored in the MIC, the first CAM returns a reject response to the second VTR; See col. 7, lines 43-48), said data processing portion should be able to identify said second apparatus connected to said bus line from said stored identification data because said data processing portion of said transmission device (i.e., the first CAM) returns a reject response to the other than said specific one of said apparatuses (i.e., the first VTR).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said method step of identification so as to response said rejection to the other than said specific one of said apparatuses (e.g., VTR-1 of Fig. 1).

Iijima'983 teaches said data processing portion performs said presetting of said settings for inputting or outputting of said data only in response to said command from the above identified specific apparatus for at least a predetermined period (See col. 7, lines 43-47), and after said predetermined period having been passed (i.e., a predetermined time-out time period has been elapsed), performs said presetting in response to said command from any of said apparatuses including said specific one of said apparatuses (See 7, lines 40-42).

Referring to claim 12, Iijima'983 teaches said data processing portion (i.e., D-I/F microcomputer 5 of Fig. 5) cancels (i.e., close) said preset in response to a command for canceling said preset (i.e., "(7)Close" command in Fig. 6) issued from said apparatus which is the issuer of said command regarding a presetting of settings (See col. 5, lines 48-52).

15.   Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima'983 [US 5,942,983 A] as applied to claims 10-12 above, and further in view of Iijima'244 [US 5,689,244 A].

Referring to claim 13, Iijima'983 discloses all the limitations of the claim 13 except that does not teach said data processing portion detects a command regarding a preset from another apparatus when said preset is enabled by another apparatus, and said data processing portion transmits data regarding an

apparatus identified from an identification data stored in a storing section to an issuer of said command regarding a presetting of settings.

Iijima'244 discloses a communication system (See Abstract), wherein a confirmation procedure (i.e., writing confirmation) comprising a data processing portion (i.e., VTR-A in Fig. 11) detects a command regarding a preset (i.e., lock request (α, β) in Fig. 11) from an apparatus (i.e., VTR-B in Fig. 11) when said preset is enabled (i.e., VTR-A has been locked by said presetting (locking) from VTR-C), and said data processing portion (i.e., VTR-A) transmits data (i.e., information γ in Fig. 11) regarding an apparatus identified from said identification data stored in said storing section (i.e., VTR-C in Fig. 11) to an issuer of said command (i.e., lock request (α, β) from VTR-B in Fig. 11) regarding a presetting of settings (i.e., locking; See col. 11, lines 39-47).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have applied said confirmation procedure, as disclosed by Iijima'244, to said transmission device, as disclosed by Iijima'983, for the advantage of allowing said issuer of another of said command requesting said presetting of settings in said first apparatus for data transmission (i.e., writing party) to confirm the successful presetting (i.e., writing; See Iijima'244, col. 11, lines 32-33).

Conclusion

16.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

With regard to controlling communication on a serial bus,

Kondo et al. [US 6,519,656 B2] disclose method for data transmission with a list of auxiliary information by appending a corresponding ID codes with respective auxiliary information.

Madany [US 5,922,050 A] discloses method and apparatus for controlling a device on a network.

Geiginger et al. [US 5,866,992 A] disclose control system for several appliances in distributed arrangement and method for setting such a control system into operation.

Sato et al. [US 5,828,656 A] disclose method of controlling communications, and electronic device.

Sato et al. [US 5,488,357 A] disclose remote controlling method and system feature starting method and controlling method for audio/visual system.

Humpleman et al. [US 6,546,419 B1] disclose method and apparatus for user and device command and control in a network.
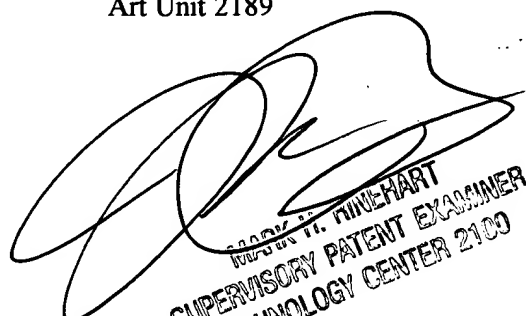
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher E. Lee whose telephone number is 703-305-5950. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark H. Rinehart can be reached on 703-305-4815. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Christopher E. Lee
Examiner
Art Unit 2189

cel/ *CEL*
July 21, 2003